

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

[0031] During insertion, the fastener F contacts the exposed portion 75 of the split ring 63. As seen in Figures 5a and 5b, the exposed portion 75 of the arm can engage two points of the fastener F. Alternatively, the exposed portion 75 could extend through the fastener receiving area 55 ~~so~~ to engage only one point or more than two points of the fastener F. The round cross-section of the wire provides a suitable tapered surface to prevent binding between the split ring 63 and the fastener F. When fully inserted, the fastener F urges the exposed portion 75 of the split ring in a radially outward direction. As seen in Figure 5b, the fastener F has displaced the arm 67 and the tip 71 away from the socket 50.